

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITIZENS SERVICES BUILDING

401 Sagner Ave.

Frederick, MD 21701

Minutes of the July 30, 2018 Meeting

- I. The meeting was held at Winchester Hall, and called to order by Chair Mari Lee. An invitation was extended to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Annette Breiling, David Kaye, Irene Packer Halsey, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Lee Whisner, Francisco Alves and Blair Pettrey. Jessica Fitzwater, County Council Liaison, and Lt. Joe Hayer from the Frederick Police Department were present. HRC applicant Paula Glascoe and former HRC member Tonya Amedon were also present.
- III. The minutes from the June 2018 HRC meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion by Annette Breiling and a second by Marguerite Vacca-Kaye.
- IV. Tonya Amedon was warmly welcomed and spoke about the recent death of Ms. Lillie Bell Hobbs in Texas. Ms. Hobbs was the mother of former HRC Chair and member Angela Spencer, who remains in Texas attending to several commitments.

Tonya Amedon also spoke about her own work with the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick, and her recent assignment to start a community gardening program there. She has partnered with Hood College, the Religious Coalition, the Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County, the County and the City to promote interest, and has included children in these efforts.

Ms. Amedon also spoke about the Housing Authority's work to renovate the Catoctin View Apartments, and the ongoing efforts by several parties to build affordable housing on the nearby Sharpe's Flowers property.

- V. The HRC voted to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation on the appointment of Paula Glascoe as a member of the HRC. The motion was made by Marguerite Vacca-Kaye and seconded by Annette Breiling. A letter will be sent to County Executive Jan Gardner requesting that the appointment be made.
- VI. Officer and Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer Annette Breiling reported that the funds available to the HRC are \$4,769.
 - b. Standing Committees

CRC – Marguerite Vacca-Kaye reported that plans for the second public forum on race relations are well underway and should be finalized in the coming weeks.

GRC – Chair Mari Lee reported that Roger Sobkowiak has been appointed to chair this committee. Adam Book, Francisco Alves and Annette Breiling will continue to serve as members. The GRC will contact Wayne Howard, the Frederick County Human Resources Division Director, to talk about how the County can increase employee diversity, and what the HRC can do to help.

IRC – Blair Pettrey and Michael Baran have been appointed, and along with David Kaye, Chair, will begin looking at whether any revisions are needed to the HRC by-laws. They will also start developing a strategic plan for recommendation for the HRC, and will circulate it for review and discussion when it is ready.

- VII. Mari Lee requested that the HRC observe a moment of silence in memory of FCPS liaison member Jet Reid, who unexpectedly passed away on June 11. Several members spoke about their great respect for Jet, and observed that his loss has had a powerful impact on our community.

- VIII. Jessica Fitzwater reported that she is working on introducing council bills that were recommended in the recent human trafficking task force report. She also discussed issues related to the recent county internal audit of the 287G agreement between the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

- IX. Old Business: Chair Mari Lee reminded the members present that the HRC has undertaken a plan to attend City Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) meetings and present information about what the HRC is and what it does. Assignments were made for upcoming NAC meetings.

Mari Lee recognized the HRC members who recently participated in the HRC's quarterly day of service event, which was Frederick Pride 2018 on June 23. Also on that date, several HRC members greeted the public at the Asbury United Methodist Church's 6th annual Community Block Party.

- X. New Business: Mari Lee also discussed plans for HRC members to be present at the four sites in the city for National Night Out on August 7. Those members were given bags of HRC give-away items to hand out.

Members were reminded that on September 15, 2018, *The Tale of the Lion: Our Stories Our Voices*, a documentary film about the history of African Americans in Frederick, produced by AARCH, will premiere at the Weinberg Center at 2 pm. Tickets are free, and should be available soon.

On October 27, 2018 the Asian American Center Community Health Fair will take place at the County Fairgrounds. This is a designated HRC quarterly day of service event, and members are encouraged to sign up on line and volunteer.

- XI. Miles Ward thanked everyone for attending, and spoke briefly about the recent death of former Congressman Ron Dellums, who was the first African American to chair the House Armed Service Committee, and helped to secure economic sanctions against South Africa when it refused to end apartheid.
- XII. Members who chose to do so made brief final comments.
- XIII. The meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Events

September 8, 2018 – Asbury United Methodist Church – 200th Anniversary Gala Celebration, at the Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center, 5:30 pm – 12:00 am. Call 301-676-9455 for tickets (\$50).

September 15, 2018 – *The Tale of the Lion: Our Stories Our Voices*, a documentary film about the history of African Americans in Frederick, produced by AARCH, will premiere at the Weinberg Center at 2 pm. For tickets: <https://weinbergcenter.org/shows/the-tale-of-the-lion-our-stories-our-voices/>

September 23, 2018 – 13th Annual Latino Festival de Frederick MD – 12 pm – 5 pm, at the Frederick Indoor Sports Center, 1845 Brookfield Court, Frederick MD 21701.

October 27, 2018 – Asian American Center Community Health Fair at the County Fairgrounds. This is a designated HRC quarterly day of service event, and members are encouraged to sign up and volunteer.

December 10, 2018 – HRC Human Rights Day Lunch – 12 pm – 1:30 pm, at Bernard Brown Center.